

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 A system and procedure to automatically enforce policy in distributed
3 multi-computer service applications. Such service applications include multiple
4 software modules that execute on multiple computers. The computers have access
5 to communications media that allow data communications between the computers.
6 Logical ports are configured on different modules according to a logical model of
7 the multi-computer service application. Each logical port is defined by port
8 software. Logical data connections between the logical ports are configured in
9 accordance with the logical model. Each port is configured to communicate
10 through different numbers of logical data connections without modifying the port
11 software.

12 In response to the occurrence of a condition, a module sends an event
13 notification to a policy module. The policy module responds to the notification by
14 formulating a request for one or more destination modules. The policy module
15 provides the request to an output port of the policy module. The output port
16 forwards the request to input ports of multiple modules according to the
17 configured logical data connections.